(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that some kind of cartelisation among private cellular companies exists and instead of investing on towers, they are using the infrastructure of other companies; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The tariff for telecom services is now regulated by the TRAI (Telecome Regulatory Authority of India). As per the TRAI guidelines the tariffs are under forbearance, except for monthly rentals, number of free calls and call charges for telephone services including WLL (F), in rural areas and roaming charges for mobile services. Accordingly all the service providers including the BSNL and MTNL are fixing their own tariff from time to time.

At present there is no such proposal in the above two public sector companies to introduce the cheaper landline call charges and mobile roaming charges.

(c) and (d) As per the license condition the sharing of 'passive' infrastructure *viz.*, building, tower, dark fibre etc. is permitted and some operators are sharing the infrastructure.

Opening of new Post Offices

360. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for opening of new post offices in the rural areas pending with Government, State-wise;

(b) the details of targets set to open post offices in the country during the financial year 2004-05 and 2005-06; and

(c) if so, the details of achievements made in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There are 116 proposals pending for opening of Post Offices in various circles as on 15.7.2005 throughout the country. Circle-wise details of pending proposals is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) No targets have been allotted for the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 because Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) had approved target for opening of new post offices only for the first two years of the 10th Plan period and instead emphasized that the Department should provide the postal facilities through rationalization of its network. However, postal facilities are being gradually provided in those areas where there is justification and demand, by way of relocation of post offices and redeployment of staff, from those areas where other post offices are existing in close proximity.

Statement

Number of proposals pending for opening of new Post Offices in the rural areas as on 15.07.2005

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	Number of Proposals Pending for Opening of New Post Offices
1	Andhra Pradesh	Nil
2	Assam	1
3	Bihar	4
4	Chhattisgarh	Nil
5	Delhi	Nil
6	Gujarat	Nil
7	Haryana	2
8	Himachal Pradesh	4
9	Jammu & Kashmir	1
10	Jharkhand	24
11	Karnataka	Nil
12	Kerala	4
13	Madhya Pradesh	Nil
14	Maharashtra	14
15	North East	1
16	Orissa	4
17	Punjab	2
18	Rajasthan	4
19	Tamil Nadu	11
20	Uttar Pradesh	7
21	Uttaranchal	2
22	West Bengal	29
23	Sikkim	1
24	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1
	TOTAL	116